

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions have illustrated the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more real substantive news about issues that matter. When local emergencies occur, our airwaves must be available to local emergency management officials, and they are not at the present time.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a renewal postcard and needs to be advertised on the air to inform viewers that the FCC is open to public comment, and to inform the public of the process.

Stations that are now digital must return their analog rights back to the American people for fair redistribution.

I oppose the renewal of Sinclair's license based on their censorship in not airing a network news program for political reasons and their misuse of our public airwaves by attempting to show political propaganda disguised as "news". This is a violation of the public trust and ignores their mandate to act in the public interest. Thank you.